I CLAIM:

1. A method of associating technical exposure information within an image, characterized in that the image is steganographically encoded with plural bit information, the plural bit information representing the exposure information, so that when the image is represented in the pixel domain, the steganographic encoding takes the form of slight changes in the values of the image pixels.

2. The method of claim 1 in which the technical exposure information comprises data indicating film speed.

3. The method of claim 1 in which the plural bit information is dispersed across the image, rather than being localized in a limited portion.

4. The method of claim 1 in which the plural bit information is encoded in accordance with pseudo-random noise data.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein a change to a single image pixel is a function of the values of several of said plural bits of information.

6. The method of claim 11 in which the encoding changes the luminance of a majority of the image pixels.

7. A printed image formed by printing the encoded image of claim 1 onto a substrate.

8. A method of associating technical exposure information within an image, characterized in that the image is steganographically encoded with plural bit information, the plural bit information representing information used in linking to a data repository containing the exposure information, so that when the image is represented in the pixel domain, the steganographic encoding takes the form of slight changes in the values of the image pixels.

9. The method of claim 8 in which the technical exposure information comprises data indicating film speed.

10. The method of claim 8 in which the plural bit information is dispersed across the image, rather than being localized in a limited portion.

11. The method of claim 8 in which the plural bit information is encoded in accordance with pseudo-random noise data.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein a change to a single image pixel is a function of the values of several of said plural bits of information.

5   13. The method of claim 8 in which the encoding changes the luminance of a majority of the image pixels.

14. A printed image formed by printing the encoded image of claim 8 onto a substrate.

15. A method of determining technical exposure information associated with an image, characterized by
10   steganographically decoding plural bit information from the image, said plural bit information taking the form of slight changes to pixel values when the image is represented in the pixel domain. the method further including determining the technical exposure information by reference to said plural bit information.

16. The method of claim 15 in which the determining includes using the plural bit information in linking to
15   a data repository containing the technical exposure information.

17. The method of claim 15 that includes scanning a printed image to obtain image data on which the method is practiced.

20   18. The method of claim 15 in which the technical exposure information comprises data indicating film speed.

19. The method of claim 15 in which the plural bit information is encoded dispersed across the image, rather than being localized in a limited portion.

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20. The method of claim 15 that includes steganographically decoding the plural bit information employing pseudo-random noise data.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein a change to a single image pixel is a function of the values of several
30   of said plural bits of information.

22. The method of claim 15 in which the luminance of a majority of pixels comprising the image have been changed by encoding of the plural bit information.